

The Saint Francis Herald

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EMERGENCY SYSTEM was installed on Wednesday and dispatchers were at work that afternoon. Seated are dispatchers, **Jim Rarick, left, Sam Beeson and Jennifer Padgett. Standing is Pat Malone, installer.**

Emergency 911 now in service

By Karen Krien
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After months of talking and planning, the new 911 system is up and running in the Cheyenne County Courthouse, St. Francis. Carol Gamblin, communications director, said the new equipment was installed on Wednesday, Dec. 19. Southwestern Bell had made the cut-over and by that afternoon, dispatchers were training. Pat Malone, with Bell, said this was one of the easiest and quickest cut over he had made. Now all emergency calls requiring law enforcement, fire or ambulance will need to be made by calling 911. With the new system, the name, address and phone number of the caller will automatically come up. Dispatchers are Jennifer Padgett and Sam Beeson, daytime; and Steve Nolan and Jim Rarick, nighttime. Mr. Nolan and Mr. Rarick

came to the new dispatch office from the city where they were dispatchers. They will receive further training with the Kansas Highway Patrol Academy in the future. Mrs. Gamblin said earlier, she didn't think they would meet the designated date to begin. She gave much of the credit to the sheriff, Craig Van Allen who put up the walls in the sheriff's office for the dispatch center and made all the arrangements for phone and electrical installations. "His support and help has been tremendous," she said. Informing groups Mrs. Gamblin said she would like to speak to groups and organizations about the new 911 system and dispatch center. "I want to explain what goes on in the center — that we do more than answer the phone and talk on a radio," she said, noting that there are times when there are two chan-



COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, Carol Gamblin will also be taking a dispatcher shift.

nels needing attention and there is only one person. "It will be the job of the dispatcher to handle whatever comes up." She has a short, interesting video that people would enjoy seeing

Around 300 coming for coyote calling

St. Francis will again be filled with coyote callers, looking to place in the top coyote calling contest in the nation. Billed as the Masters of Coyote Calling, St. Francis has been home for this event for the last 11 years. Some of the top coyote callers from 13 states around the Midwest have entered for the Jan. 5 and 6 dates. Friday night over 300 people will be crammed into the 4-H building at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds. Once the teams have had a good meal and are given the rules and regulation of the event, they will be turned loose to travel to where they will begin the hunt on Saturday morning. After a hard hunt, the teams will again converge on St. Francis to bring back their harvested animals. Teams will hunt in three different states, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska. This year the Nebraska game department, specializing in disease control, will be in attendance gathering samples from all the coyotes and their harvest locations. They will be gathering this information to give a better insight and knowledge to understand the health issues that pertain to coyotes, such as parvo and distemper as well as mange. After all the coyotes have been checked in and the final statistics have been tallied, there will be champions named in two classes, the Sportsman's Warehouse and the Midwest classes. Callers will receive guns, calls, optics and a host of other door prizes which will be given away. Prize money and prizes totaling \$35,000 will be awarded, making this the largest purse in the coyote calling circuit. "We have had to increase our team numbers every year since we started," said Brent Rueb, coordinator. "We are now up to 130, two-person teams, and we filled up earlier than ever! Predator Callers are the most dedicated hunters to their sport, bar none." Last year the callers battled over 2 feet of snow and the event filled up at 115 teams. This year they have snow again and high fuel prices to contend with, and again filled up at 130 teams. "I have ran out of room to hold this contest" the fairgrounds building is at its capacity with 130 teams. "I never dreamed it would be such a huge event." Of special interest this year, the American Outdoorsman Television show will be covering this event. The American Outdoorsman show televises big game hunts during the first half of the year and predator hunts the second half. They have five teams entered in the event and will be filming as well. Predator calling is the largest growing sport in the shooting industry and the attendance at this event proves it!



CHECKING PRICES — Keith Dankenbring, left, and Roger Lauer check over some of the prices in the parts book. They have sold Bumper To Bumper to Andy and Mary Beikman.

Partners sell after 26 years

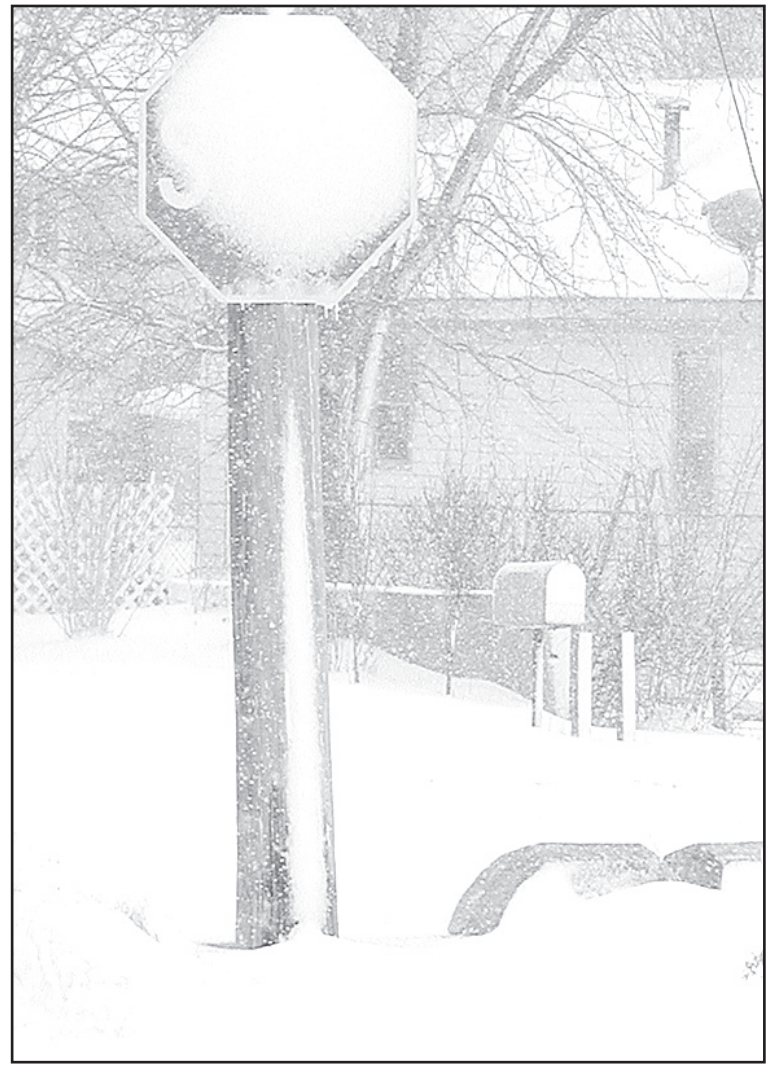
By Karen Krien
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Bumper to Bumper Auto Parts will have new owners on Jan. 1. Roger Lauer and Keith Dankenbring recently made the announcement that, after 26 years of partnership in the business they have sold to Andy and Mary Beikman. They said they have taken pride in giving good service. "That's the way to build a business."

bring started in the auto parts business working for John Wolfe 37 years ago. Mr. Lauer previously worked for Mr. Wolfe until he bought into the business. They have seen several changes over the years. They remodeled, moving the office into the central area so they could be there when customers needed help. When they first started, the parts came from Denver and now they come from Wichita. In 1986, they began selling guns and ammunition. They also would sell some larger items such as lawnmowers. Again, they were there to serve

their customers and get them what they needed. "We have had a lot of fun with our customers," Mr. Dankenbring said. "We have picked at and insulted them but it has all been in fun!" They both said that their customers, everyone from farmers to mechanics, have become more like family. Mr. Dankenbring will continue working for Andy in the business and Mr. Lauer will be there when needed. "We wish the Beikmans the best!" they concluded.

Deadline nears to cast votes

Only days remain until the Dec. 31 deadline to vote for the 8 Wonders of Kansas. The 8 Wonders of Kansas is a project of the Kansas Sampler Foundation designed to help educate the public about what Kansas has to offer and to encourage travel. "Public vote will determine the top 8 Wonders of Kansas so we encourage everyone to share their opinions and choose their favorites," said Marci Penner, foundation director. "More than 20,000 people have already voted online by going to 8wonders.org or by calling 620-585-2374 and requesting a paper ballot. The deadline is midnight Dec. 31 or any ballots postmarked on Dec. 31 will also be counted. Public nominations and a selection committee narrowed the field to 24 finalists. Voting began June 1. "This project has been very well received and has exceeded expectations," Ms. Penner said. "The finalists have received a boost in visitor numbers." Schools have used the project to teach their students about Kansas and students have voted. The contest has also sparked pride and educational efforts within the finalist communities. Governor Sebelius will announce the top 8 Wonders of Kansas on Kansas Day at the state capitol in a 10 a.m. public ceremony.



MORE SNOW FELL in St. Francis on Christmas Day.

Winter storms move through St. Francis

By Karen Krien
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St. Francis residents had a white Christmas. It snowed the majority of the day in the northwest edge of the state. When it stopped around dusk, there were 2 inches more added to the already snow-covered ground. This time, there was wind which the National Weather Service reported to be around 20-miles per hour. On Friday, snow and ice moved into eastern Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas slowing down pre-Christmas travel over the weekend. There were accidents and at least two deaths reported. Last week, the St. Francis area received moisture, mostly in the form of snow, with some rain which immediately turned to ice. On Friday, Dec. 14, the snow fell and Kathy Woodcox, weather observer, reported 3 more inches. Today, (Thursday) there is more snow forecasted for this area and temperatures are going to be cold, with highs reaching mostly into the 30s.

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Dec. 11	34	04	.43
Dec. 12	27	11	.10
Dec. 13	33	08	
Dec. 14	24	07	.13
Dec. 15	26	02	
Dec. 16	40	10	
Dec. 17	36	10	
Dec. 18	44	20	
Dec. 19	41	19	
Dec. 20	46	17	
Dec. 21	39	13	T
Dec. 22	28	10	
Dec. 23	40	11	
Dec. 24	41	11	
Dec. 25	34	4	.09

Snow: 3 inches on Dec. 11, 1/2 inch on Dec. 12; 3 inches on Dec. 14; 2 inches on Dec. 25.